

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 14, 15, 20, and 21 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 13, 17, 19, and 23 as follows:

1 - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A control method in a printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer, said method comprising:

a registration step of registering a plurality of the member printers as a virtual printer;

a setting step of setting a virtual printer registered in the registration step to any one of a plurality of output methods about how to use the plurality of member printers, wherein the output methods include (a) a redirect printing method which automatically switches, when an error occurs in a printer to which a print job has been transmitted, to another printer of the plurality of member printers, and (b) a distributed printing method which distributes a print job to the plurality of member printers;

a receiving step of receiving an instruction to display a user interface for setting print properties of a designated virtual printer;

a checking step of checking, upon receiving the instruction, which output method is set for the designated virtual printer;

a first providing step of providing, when it is checked in the checking step that the designated virtual printer is set to ~~a first output~~ the distributed printing method, ~~is designated~~; a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer, the first user interface not including a setting item for independently setting the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer; and

a second providing step of providing, when it is checked in the checking step that the designated virtual printer is set to ~~a second output~~ the redirect printing method, ~~is designated~~; a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process, the second user interface (a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer and (b) not including a setting item for independently setting other member printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer.

14 - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the second user interface comprises a user interface of a printer driver of the representative member printer and a user interface of a printer driver of the virtual printer.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~13~~ 16, wherein the user interface of the printer driver of the virtual printer ~~in the second output method~~ contains a setting item for creating intermediate data.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising a designation step of issuing, to the member printer, a designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

19. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer, said apparatus comprising:

registration means for registering a plurality of the member printers as a virtual printer;

setting means for setting a virtual printer registered by the registration means to any one of a plurality of output methods about how to use the plurality of member printers, wherein the output methods include (a) a redirect printing method which automatically switches, when an error occurs in a printer to which a print job has been transmitted, to another printer of the plurality of member printers, and (b) a distributed printing method which distributes a print job to the plurality of member printers;

receiving means for receiving an instruction to display a user interface for setting print properties of a designated virtual printer;

checking means for checking, upon receiving the instruction, which output method is set for the designated virtual printer;

first providing means for providing, when it is checked by the checking means that the designated virtual printer is set to a first output the distributed printing method, ~~is designated,~~ a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer, the first user interface not including a setting item for independently setting the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer; and

second providing means for providing, when it is checked by the checking means that the designated virtual printer is set to a second output the redirect printing method, ~~is designated,~~ a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process, the second user interface (a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer and (b) not including a setting item for independently setting other member printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer.

20 - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the second user interface comprises a user interface of a printer driver of the representative member printer and a user interface of a printer driver of the virtual printer.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~22~~ 19, wherein the user interface of the printer driver of the virtual printer in the second output method contains a setting item for creating intermediate data.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising designation means for issuing, to the member printer, a designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having a computer-executable program stored thereon for effecting the method according to claim 13.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer-executable program stored on an apparatus-readable storage medium for effecting the method according to claim 13.